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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 2, 2012  
INFORMATION: Jamie Kellum, 410-228-2692 ext. 108**

**Timber Stand Improvement Treatment  
Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge**

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), part of the Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex began carrying out a Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) treatment on July 25, 2012. This project is part of the forest management plan that was written into the 2006 Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). The treatment is located approximately four miles southeast of State Highway 16 on Smithville Road within the Goose Dam tract of Area S. The treatment area consists of two stands totaling approximately 40 acres consisting mainly of loblolly pine with some mixed hardwoods.

The TSI will improve the overall forest health and habitat for forest interior dwelling songbirds, Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel and other wildlife. Removing individual trees, releasing primarily oak hardwoods, the treatment will also improve species composition from pure pine stands to mixed pine hardwood. Single tree selection and one to two acre patch cuts will be used to accomplish these improvements.

Currently these stands are not providing the diversity of habitats that are necessary for a host of forest interior dwelling songbirds. Forest birds use a diversity of habitat conditions such as dense ground cover, mid-story canopy and the crowns of the tallest trees.

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